

# Josephus

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# Who was Josephus?

- Born in Jerusalem at 37 CE.
- Commander of the Jewish rebel forces during the Great Revolt in Galilee/the General of Galilee
- Translator and Advisor to the Roman forces
- Author of four significant books written during the Hellenistic-Roman era

# What Texts Did Josephus write?

In chronological order...

1. *Jewish War (J.W.)*
2. *Jewish Antiquities (Ant.)*
3. *The Life of Josephus (Life)*
4. *Against Apion (Ag. Ap.)*

# Why Is He Important to the Study of Matthew?

- “His writings provide us with the only chronological account of Jewish history from Alexander the Great to the end of the First Jewish Revolt” (Gurtner and Stuckenbruck 2020, 302)
- He also plays a crucial role in the description of the Temple’s infrastructure in the New Testament, and its significance.
- He helps readers with the understanding of Galilee.
- He mentions Jesus, John the Baptist, James the Just (also known as brother of Jesus), Theudas (a messianic figure), etc. which all overlap with the New Testament.

# Works Cited:

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- Feldman, Louis H. "Josephus." Pages 981-989 Vol. 3. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. Edited by D.N. 6 vols. New York: Doubleday, 1992.